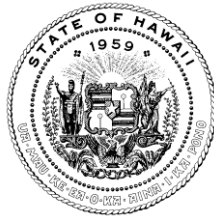


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WAYS AND MEANS

Friday, April 5, 2019
10:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 297, HOUSE DRAFT 1, SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL

House Bill 297, House Draft 1, Senate Draft 1 proposes to direct the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to review the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria for placement on an appropriate animal import list and requires the DOA and Department of Health (DOH) to report on the feasibility of using *Aedes aegypti* with *Wolbachia* bacteria in an innovative vector control program within the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Mosquitoes are non-native to Hawaii and vector diseases, which threaten public health as well as native wildlife. The Department supports the overall concept of using *Aedes aegypti* with *Wolbachia* bacteria for landscape-scale mosquito control in Hawaii. Such technology is already being applied elsewhere in the US and internationally to suppress populations of mosquitoes that vector diseases. The Department also supports the review of *Aedes aegypti* and *Wolbachia* for placement on an animal import list but defers to DOA and DOH with regards to the proper approach to reviewing and listing species for import into the State.

The Department works with DOA and DOH on research efforts regarding the potential to utilize *Wolbachia* as a tool for landscape-scale control for mosquitoes that carry avian diseases (particularly *Culex quinquefasciatus*). These current research efforts could inform future research on mosquitoes such as *Aedes aegypti* that carry human disease. One research option currently being explored is the collection of mosquitoes in Hawaii, which could be exported to a laboratory on the mainland with expertise in transfection of the *Wolbachia*, after which the mosquitoes could be re-imported for further research and potential release. The Department supports amendments in Senate Draft 1 that recognize this line of research and add the Department to the group of agencies collaborating on a report to the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

GLENN K. MURANAKA
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

APRIL 5, 2019
10:15 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 211

HOUSE BILL NO. 297 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL

Chairperson Dela Cruz and Members of the Committee:

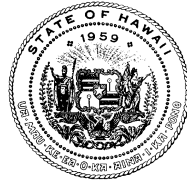
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 297 HD1 SD1 relating to Mosquito Vector Control. This bill (1) directs the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) to review the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, including *Aedes aegypti* mosquito originating from Hawaii stock that could be imported for landscape scale mosquito control, for placement of the mosquito on the appropriate animal import list; and (2) directs DOA, the Department of Health, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources to collaborate on a report to the legislature including recommendations regarding the importation of *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria, plans, timeline, and implementation costs for a mosquito control program using the *Aedes aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia* bacteria if permitted, or if not permitted, recommendations for other alternative vector control means. The Department supports the intent of this bill and offers the following comments.

On the issue of importation, the Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 150A-6.2 contains a provision that allows certain entities, such as the University of Hawaii, to potentially import an unlisted organism, such as *A. aegypti*, on a case-by-case basis for the purpose of conducting scientific research in a manner that *A. aegypti* will not be detrimental to agriculture, the environment, or humans, provided the importer can meet



permit requirements as determined by the Board of Agriculture. The intent of this provision is to allow importation for projects like this one without going through the entire rulemaking process to place an organism on the list. It allows for research to begin, a risk level to be developed, and then appropriate list placement be made, as opposed to conducting list placement first and then potentially finding out that the placement needs to be changed after the research is conducted. The Department recommends consideration of this option initially, in lieu of formal list placement.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 297 HD1 SD1
RELATING TO MOSQUITO VECTOR CONTROL**

SENATOR DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: April 5, 2019
10:15 AM

Room Number: 211

1 **Fiscal Implications:** None

2 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports HB 297, HD1, SD1 which directs the
3 Department of Agriculture (DOA) to review the *Aedes Aegypti* mosquito with *Wolbachia*
4 bacteria for placement on the appropriate animal import list. It also requires collaboration
5 between the Department, DOA and the Department to Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to
6 report findings and recommendations of this technology and other alternative vector control
7 methods.

8 The Department appreciates that the offered amendments to the bill have been added in this
9 latest version. The Department is also supportive of new technologies, but with any research
10 there should be stringent procedures in place so that innovative research on vector control
11 methods benefit the environment and protect the people of Hawaii.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-297-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2019 12:20:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 4/5/2019 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments: